

the Darling Valley, and is accompanied by the same sterility as upon the coast.

Before reaching the western barrens there are many fine and fertile valleys, among which, besides Bathurst, is that of Wellington, distant about two hundred miles from Sydney. Both of these are already settled.

As to the more remote parts of the interior of New Holland, no positive knowledge has yet been obtained. The prevailing opinion appears to be, that an extensive desert extends throughout it; and this opinion is supported by citing the dry and scorching character of the winds which blow from the west. The greatest distance to the westward which has been explored, is only four hundred and fifty miles, which is not a fourth part of the distance to the western coast. It will thus be seen that a vast field of discovery is still open, which will no doubt be ere long explored, under the auspices of the British government.

To the southwest of Sydney the same compact limestone seen at Bathurst makes its appearance at Argyle, also about one hundred and twenty miles distant from the former place. This stone yields lime of good quality, and is also a valuable material for building.

According to the best accounts, the range of granite appears to begin in Van Diemen's Land, and after being interrupted by Bass's Straits, runs through New South Wales in a broad belt. Near Bass's Straits it rises into a lofty group of mountains, called the Australian Alps, the only snowy ridge known in Australia, and continuing thence northward, it forms the dividing range of the waters.

The basaltic ridges of this southern region are said occasionally to reach a height of four thousand feet, and a limestone similar to that of Argyle and Bathurst, which contains many fossils, extends to the "Limestone Plains," where it is succeeded by the usual sandstone. How far this limestone extends to the southward has not been ascertained. The finest districts in this southern section are those of Port Philip, Argyle, Bass, and Bong-Bong.

To the northward, beyond the Hunter river, the country is intersected by basaltic ridges, which increase in number until they merge in the Liverpool Mountains, of which many of them are spurs. Between these ridges, and to the north of the Goulburn branch, sandstone again prevails, and forms a great extent of barren country; but the smaller valleys being generally bordered by ridges of basalt, are for the most part fertile.

The Liverpool range of mountains, although it has been traced for